



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

# President's



# Newsletter

Number 53. January, 1992.

## SAN DIEGO CALLING ONE AND ALL.

Now that we're into 1992, the best news of the new year is that our upcoming convention in San Diego promises to be the biggest event on our Society's annual calendar. By now you've probably received your registration packet which, on the one hand, tells you much about what you can expect, but on the other hand, only hints at the delightful time that awaits you. The dates are April 30 to May 3, and Dale Goldman and Deuell Wall, our co-chairmen, tell us that members will find more to do those four days than they could imagine. The program will feature a dinner cruise, tour of San Diego, metrology seminar, silent auction, festive luncheons, gala banquet, and scales, scales, scales. Each year's convention seems to provide new and novel experiences for our members, and this year's event -- headquartered at San Diego's new and glamorous Pan Pacific Hotel -- is no exception. The best advice we can give you is to register soon, and when setting aside the dates, include several extra days to visit some of California's famous attractions, both in and near San Diego.

## GOOD NEWS ABOUT DUES.

We'd like to thank all those members who expressed their understanding of our financial position that necessitated a dues increase, and promptly sent us payment. To them (and to those few who as yet have

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not sent us their check), we want you to know that ISASC has just been approved by the IRS as a publicly-supported (educational) organization exempt from Federal income tax. This means that members may treat their annual dues as tax deductible, and itemize them as such on their Federal tax return for 1992 and thereafter. The savings can be as much as 30% or so (an appreciable amount), which makes belonging to ISASC even that much better a value.

#### MARKETPLACE.

Members' response to and use of this "buy and sell" service, introduced as a separate feature in 1991, was only lukewarm, and consequently we've decided to include the listings we receive from time to time within our quarterly President's Newsletter, several of which follow:

- 1) 17 ANALYTICAL BALANCES FOR SALE OR TRADE. Most are wood and glass; some metal. Sample description: Christian Becker. New York City. Chain-o-Matic. 16-1/2" wide, 19" high, 9-1/4" deep. MILAN DRAGIN, 1162 E. 54th St., Chicago, IL 60615. Call before 8:00 a.m. CST -- 312/241-6161.
- 2) FOR SALE. 200 GOLD SCALES WITH WEIGHTS. In leather or wood pocket cases. Included are: elaborate 18th century scale with weights; French Fournier 18th Century with nesting weights; Johann Daniel Van Berg, 1780, in wood case with 18 weights; J.P. Aeckersberg in wood case with label and 16 weights; English sovereign folding scale in hinged wood box; French Poid-de-Ville weights; set of eleven, very rare. IRVING OLSON, 682 Delaware Avenue, Akron, OH 44303; 216/867-1111.
- (3) WANTED TO BUY. SCALE CATALOGS PUBLISHED BY ISASC. Chatillon #19; Troemner 1926; Howe #41; Fairbanks 1859 and 1906. Write or call SHIRLEY PEABODY, RD #1, Day Hollow Road, Endicott, NY 13760; 607/748-8734.



GOOD THINGS BY THE NUMBERS.

Four, to be exact, all enclosed with this mailing and certain to get your new year off to a fine start --

- \* One, taken from The Coin Slot, a vending industry trade publication, is an article titled "The Bet." It's an engrossing anecdotal overview of the beginnings of the penny scale, introduced in Chicago during the early 1930's by John Watling and Ed Pace. Our thanks to member Bill Berning for making the article available to us.
- \* The second came to us from antique dealer Carole Thomas, who identified them as "Penny Dreadfuls," a popular yesteryear form of social criticism, if not outright diatribe. We found them to be highly entertaining, and have reproduced them on colored paper stock for our members. Should you deem them worthy of framing, each can be individually trimmed, matted, and framed, or the two can be treated as a double unit and framed accordingly. (Does anyone know about Penny Dreadfuls, their origin, or whatever? Let us know and we'll tell all in our next Newsletter.)
- \* The third enclosure is Directory Supplement #3, listing new members who most recently joined ISASC. Simply insert it in your directory binder, and you'll be up to date until you receive the 1992 Directory in April.
- \* And, lastly, the fourth is our current library list, reminding you that your Society is the logical source for expanding your own metrology library. If your set of EQM's doesn't start from Issue #1, you're missing a bet, especially as this year we're anticipating receipt of an updated Index for our entire output of EQM's, courtesy of editor Diana Crawforth-Hitchins, and her new computer.



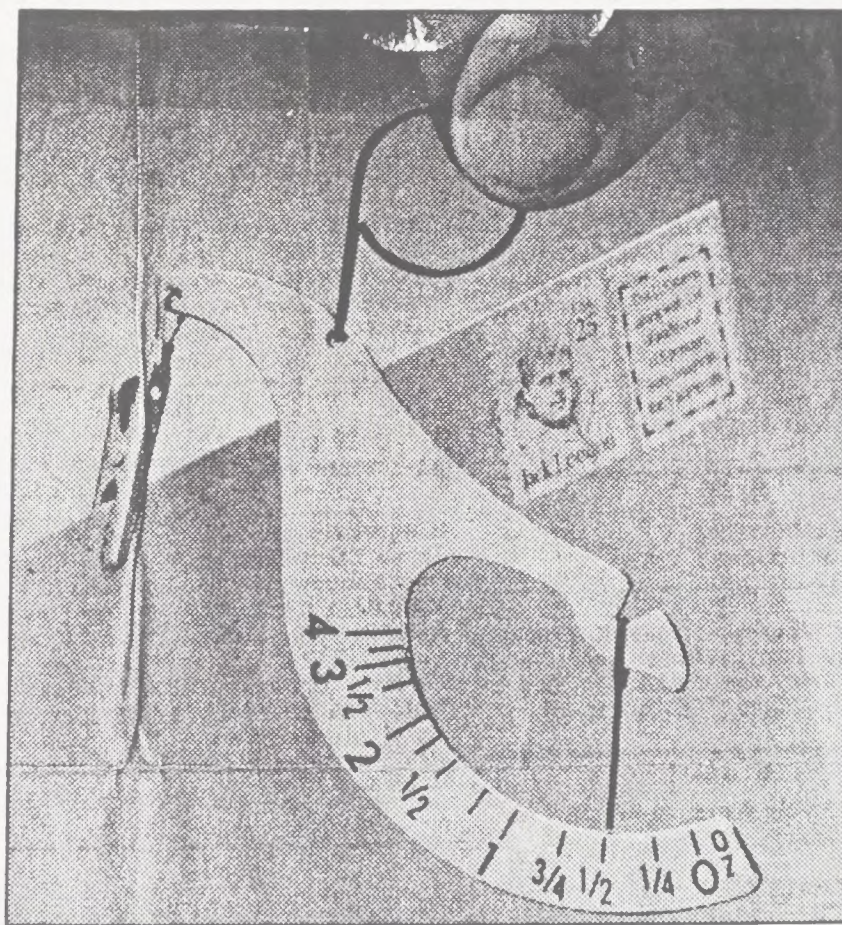
#### MORE ON OUR LIBRARY.

A lot more, actually, if you take into account the Christmas gift Shirley Van der Veer gave husband, Bill (a new member). It consisted of every back issue of EQM, from 1978 through 1990, and every book, monograph, and article reprint published by ISASC. Clearly our largest order to date, and one that speaks well of the Van der Veer's quest for knowledge.

#### AND FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES...

we reprint an article from the August 3, 1991, issue describing the revival of an "old" (but hardly antique) letter scale. If you're looking for something that actually weighs letters, look no further but write or call the manufacturer named in the article.

## Personal Scale Grips, Weighs, Then Stores Practically Anywhere



Metal Products Engineering Inc.

When postal rates increased a few months ago, a Los Angeles-based manufacturer of office and banking equipment dusted off one of its old products and has found it quite useful — and popular once more.

The product is a small, hand-held scale that enables people to determine how many stamps to put on the envelopes they are about to mail.

The MP 4000 Postal Scale, produced by Metal Products Engineering Inc., isn't much bigger than a half-dollar and costs \$3.75, compared with \$10 to \$15 for most office scales.

Postal scales are nothing new. But the company is touting its scale, which was popular in the mid-1970's, before the Postal Service stopped selling consumer items, as handier and less expensive than others.

Moreover, the company says, it's fun. The crescent-shaped scale weighs envelopes that are attached to a small pair of alligator clips. A pointer shows the letter's weight, up to 4 ounces.

"It's personal," said the company's marketing director, Paula Luppen. "An average person or a small company that operates out of a desk drawer, that doesn't have a mail room, can use it."

The scale is sold in some office products stores and will soon be available again in post offices. It may be ordered from Metal Products Engineering, 3864 Santa Fe Avenue, Los Angeles, Calif. 90058; telephone (800) 824-0222. Add \$1 for shipping and handling. California residents should add 24 cents sales tax.

JOSH KURTZ



AND NOW...OFF TO BURMA.

Last March, we received an unusual missive from Donald Gear, a member of ISASC's European Chapter who resides in South Africa (yes, our Euro-Chapter does take geographic liberties). It seems that Donald's area of interest is ancient royal animal-shaped weights of Burma, about which he's recently completed a work titled "Heaven and Earth." Realizing that the subject would have a limited audience, Donald asked us if we could advise him on ways to maximize the sale of his book, of which probably no more than 500 will be published. We immediately put him in touch with Ruth Willard, George Mallis and Gary Batz, each of whom, over a period of months, responded directly to Donald, giving him the benefit of their considerable knowledge. Moreover, for those members interested in the subject who might wish to purchase a copy of the book (at the moment without a price), we're providing a synopsis below, along with Donald's address: P.O. Box 86, Cato Ridge 3680, Natal, South Africa.

#### HEAVEN AND EARTH

##### The ancient royal animal-shaped weights of Burma

This is a reference work concerned with the metal animal-shaped weights and similar figurines of South-east Asia, particularly those of Burma. It sets the mass systems into their Asian geographical and historical context. It shows the relations between the animal motifs of the weights together with their changing symbolisms and those of the ancient Mesopotamians, the shamanistic steppe nomads, the animistic and Buddhistic Indians, Chinese and Burmese agriculturalists and citizens, and the Burmese universal monarchs. It carries useful comments on related ingot currencies, associated trade routes, and possible links between the Burmese and the Sakan steppe nomads. There are 30 plates, 24 tables including keys to style and chronological classification, 4 maps, 4 appendices, and an extensive bibliography.

The book will be of interest to numismatists, metrologists, and students of South-east Asia, historians, e.g. of animal art, folk art and culture, symbolists, ethnologists and many other orientalist. It will be of use to students, lecturers, curators, librarians, researchers, collectors and dealers.

The authors resided for a total of six years in Burma, 1957-1960 and 1970-1973, during which a collection of weights was assembled and inquiries and surveys were made. A first study completed in 1976 led to further extensive literature research resulting in the present work.

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## MISCELLANY.

\*\* In our last Newsletter, we told you about the soon-to-happen wedding bells for members Bill Berning and Jan Miller. Now we can report that the wedding took place as scheduled on Saturday, November 2, and a grand affair it was. Margie and Bob Stein attended the event, first at the church where Bill and Jan exchanged vows, and then at the reception and dinner, where friends and relatives gathered to celebrate the happy occasion. All of you who are planning to come to the San Diego convention will meet the newly-united Bernings, as it's their intention to be with us for what most likely will be a belated honeymoon.

During the morning of November 2 (before the Steins departed for the church), member Joe Lenorovitz and his son Bruce took time off from a trade show they'd come to Chicago for to visit the Steins and spend several hours viewing their scale and stamp box collections. Even though their stay was short, it was a pleasure, as always, to welcome them and spend time together talking about antiques near and dear to our hearts (and wallets).

\*\* Everyone surely remembers the devastating fire last October 20/21 that swept through California's Hillside community overlooking Oakland and the San Francisco Bay. The aftermath was described by one newscaster as a "smoldering moonscape," and it left death in its wake, along with several billion dollars in destruction. We received a number of calls inquiring about the well-being of Bill and Mary Doniger, whose home was in the middle of it all, and on Tuesday, Oct. 22, two days after the conflagration started, we were immensely relieved to learn that Bill and Mary not only were safe and sound (our most important concern), but that, miraculously, their home (and precious scale collection) escaped damage completely. We're looking forward to seeing the Donigers in San Diego, where Bill will be in charge of our "Show and Tell" presentation.



\*\* Members who use reference sources in connection with their pursuit of scales and other hobbies might want to acquire a publication titled Collector's Information Clearinghouse Antiques & Collectibles Resource Directory. The simplest way to tell you what's in it is to reprint the description below, which tells all, including how to secure a copy and, if you like, your very own listing.

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## Collector's Information Clearinghouse Antiques & Collectibles Resource Directory

An unprecedented explosion in the values of - and interest in - art, antiques and collectibles has occurred in the recent past. As more and more people enter the marketplace as collectors, they are recognizing the need to educate themselves. For thousands of neophyte collectors, the *Collector's Information Clearinghouse Antiques & Collectibles Resource Directory* is the key to making connections in the antiques and collectibles marketplace. This is also a valuable reference for public libraries and for professionals such as appraisers, attorneys, lecturers and authors, claims adjusters, estate liquidators, and established collectors and dealers who want to expand their contacts.

The *CIC...Resource Directory* is the only comprehensive guide to today's market; it contains nearly 7,000 entries in 2,000 categories and covers everything from A&P items to Zeppelins. What does a typical category contain? The name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and descriptive comments for:

\*Collectors \*Dealers \*Experts in the Field \*Newsletters/Periodicals \*Museums/Libraries \*Reproduction Sources \*Auction Services \*Clubs/Associations/Societies \*Repair/Restoration/Conservation Services \*Manufacturers/Distributors/Producers \*Suppliers/Sources for Parts \*Matching Services for China/Crystal/Flatware

Plus other valuable services which will put you in touch with appraisers, researchers, lecturers, authenticators, publicists, transportation firms, seminars, hard-to-find references, antique buying trip travel services, book sellers, regional antique shop and flea market guides - literally anyone, everything, and anything associated with the collecting marketplace! Listings include foreign sources as well. Harry Rinker, noted lecturer and author, says "This is a reference that will become your companion for life."

The *Collector's Information Clearinghouse Antiques & Collectibles Resource Directory* is a dynamic and evolving reference tool which is constantly being updated and expanded between editions. Additional specialized listings are always welcome. Applicants should send a LSASE to receive a listing application packet. There is no charge for being listed in the *CIC...Resource Directory*.

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**About the Author:** David J. Maloney, ISA, a former dealer in 19th century Americana, is a full-time professional personal property appraiser who specializes in antiques and collectibles. He also serves on the Board of directors of the International Society of Appraisers and on the board of the moving industry's Claims Prevention & Procedure Council.

The *Collector's Information Clearinghouses Antiques & Collectibles Resource Directory* is published by Wallace-Homestead Book Company (Wallace-Homestead is an imprint of Chilton Book Company) and is available in bookstores and antique shops or by mail from Collector's Information Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 2049, Frederick, MD 21702-1049.

8½" x 11", 352 pgs. Price: \$19.95 pb/\$27.95 hc. Add \$4.00 per book (\$6 foreign) for postage & handling. MD residents add 5% sales tax.

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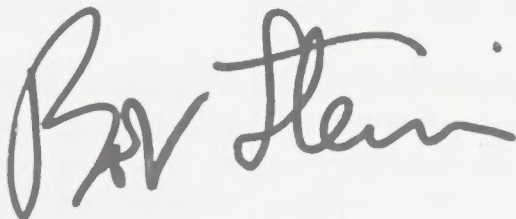


\*\* One of our members who regularly goes out of his way to do nice things for ISASC is Emil Cohn, and we want to acknowledge his latest service to our Society. Some years ago he "discovered" the Wardmote Inquest, a full-color rendering of an historical scene depicting a huge scale in a town square. Emil arranged for it to be reproduced in quantity for sale to our members, and also provided the text that describes its purpose and history, a lucite sleeve for protecting it, and a cardboard container for shipping it. This past year, we faced a "sold-out" situation, and Emil again undertook the entire multi-step process so that once again our Society has the illustration in stock and available to our members. Thanks very much, Emil, for being such a helpmate.

AND ON THAT NOTE...

we bring this Newsletter to an end. We hope 1992 will be your best year ever, and we hope we'll see each and every one of you in San Diego this spring.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Stein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.